Bolsheviks, passed a resolution opposing such a convention and reiterating the demand for an immediate transfer of all power to the Soviets. On the eve of the Convention that met in Petrograd on September 26, the plenary session of the Executive Committee assembled to discuss the problem of the government. I received a telegram calling me to attend. More than two hundred persons were present, but the discussion was lifeless and no decision was taken. The Executive Committee went to the Convention with no program, no definite policy.

The official meeting of the Convention in the Alexandrinsky Theater was preceded by caucuses of political groups. The S-D caucus opened with reports by the leaders of the three factions within the party, but the discussion revealed that each faction had two or three different points of view. A dozen resolutions were put to a vote. A small majority favored a coalition government, and about an equal majority was against a coalition with the Cadets. No binding decisions were taken. The caucus of the S-R party was equally sterile. The moderates who had directed the policy of the Soviets since April were hopelessly split.

The Convention was a cumbersome and motley gathering, with groups of unequal importance and some overlapping in organizations, but it represented fairly well the democratic forces of all parts of Russia. The largest representation was given to the new rural and municipal councils (500 seats) and central Soviets of workers, soldiers, and peasants (300 seats); next in number came the representatives of local soldiers' organizations (150), consumer unions (150), and trade unions (100). In addition, 225 seats were distributed among national minorities, professional organizations, and various other groups.

In the military section of the Convention, delegates from the front outnumbered those from rear garrisons. Politically, this section represented the center of the Convention. The Soviets of workers, dominated by the Communists, formed its left wing. On the right were peasant organizations, rural and municipal councils, and co-operative unions controlled by the right-wing S-R. Perhaps it would be possible to achieve a workable majority in the Convention by taking a vote by section, but such a vote would only emphasize the deep split in the democratic forces.

Chkheidze was in the chair. Kerensky, invited to address the Convention, delivered a speech in his usual style, too emotional and affected to impress a suspicious and, to a large extent, unfriendly audience. The new War Minister, General Verkhovsky, opened the discussion of military affairs. He was a young man in a dashing uniform, very lean and tall, with a pale face, horn-rimmed glasses, and a